

B1 54 and outwardly of the groove 56, as shown in FIG. 4. The flat extension portion 58, preferably having a thickness of about 0.130", provides a pair of smooth, sealant-receiving surfaces to extend the region, i.e. extent of interconnection of the mating halves 38, 40. —

On page 16, please amend the first full paragraph to read as follows:

— The flat extensions 58 of the edges 42-52 also provide locations on the exterior of the tee baffle for clamping the mating halves to one another during assembly, i.e. primarily during curing of the sealant. The flat extensions 58 of the seam result in an effective gluing surface for each edge of the two mating halves 38, 40 that is preferably about 0.250" in width dimension. Thus, while most of the wall area of the assembled tee 10 of the present invention advantageously has a reduced wall thickness, i.e. preferably on the order of 0.075"-0.100", and most preferably approximately 0.090", the seams still have an increased wall thickness more commensurate with the wall thickness of traditional pipe tees. As a result, the connecting seams of the sanitary tee 10, which might otherwise be considered weak portions of the tee, instead have strength characteristics similar to conventional pipe tees. —

On pages 19-20, please amend the carryover paragraph to read as follows:

B2 — Although both the inner and outer surfaces of the elongated main body portion 24 of the sanitary tee 10 can be tapered inward in the vicinity of its lowermost end 22, this need not be the case. The elongated main body portion 24 of the tee baffle 10 can instead have a uniform diameter. The lowermost end region can be advantageously coupled with a bell end of schedule 35 pipe, which pipe end can be glued in place to further extend the elongated main body portion 24 of the sanitary tee 10, if needed. Alternatively, a straight coupler fitting can be solvent-welded to the lower end region of the tee baffle, and any desired length of straight schedule 35 pipe could be solvent welded into the other end of the coupler fitting in order to increase the present tee 10 to the desired length. Also, the upper hub 30 of the sanitary tee 10 is purposely open in order to provide access to an effluent filter 16, 18 housed

B3
within the sanitary tee, i.e. to facilitate its removal for cleaning, replacement, re-insertion, or other maintenance purposes. If desired, the upper hub 30 can be closed off with a standard pipe end plug (not shown). —

✓ On page 21, please amend the first full paragraph to read as follows:

B4
— The present invention sanitary tee 10 thus assists in resisting premature upward movement or ejection of the effluent filter. This is accomplished by providing inwardly directed flanges or projections along the tee's inner wall in the vicinity of the upper hub 30 of the tee, just above a ridge formed in the tee over the top of the sweep opening at the outlet of the tee, where the tee widens to accept the cap 26 of an effluent filter. For example, securing means in the form of inwardly-directed raised buttons or ribs 68 would be provided on the inner wall of the hub of the tee. Preferably, these buttons 68 are located at approximately 20° and 200° (with the center of the outlet opening being at a 90° location relative to the opening at the top of the upper hub 30). —

✓ On page 21-22, please amend the carryover paragraph as follows:

B5
— The cap 26 of the effluent filter 18 then would advantageously be provided with complementary recesses or openings to allow the cap 26 to pass over the buttons or ribs during insertion or removal of the effluent filter. Then, in a bayonet fitting-type operation, once the cap of the effluent filter passes the ribs or buttons, the effluent filter is rotated to a secured position, so that the ribs or buttons lock the cap of the effluent filter in place on the ridge at the lower end of the hub of the tee, where the slanted ridge is provided. —

✓ On page 22, please amend the first full paragraph to read as follows:

B6
— An additional means for securing certain types of effluent filters within the tee 10 is to provide inwardly-directed elements 70 on the smooth inner wall of the tee, such as in the form of rims 72 that are undercuts of the elements 70, which facilitate locking the sealing gasket of the effluent filter in place against the sanitary tee 10. For example, one

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commercially available single-pass effluent filter 18, as shown in FIG. 7, wherein the effluent only passes through filtering slits once, has a flexible sealing gasket 74 located near a lower end of the filter. –

On pages 25-26, please amend the carryover paragraph to read as follows:

B7
– The vertical ribs 160 of the one-piece tee 110 (as well as the longitudinal ribs 66 in the two-piece tee 10) are preferably located at 180° to one another, but it is recognized that this need not be the case, and instead, for example, there may be three such ribs provided at 60° intervals between one another. The vertical ribs 160 of the one-piece tee 110 also perform the same molded-in runner system benefit of the longitudinal ribs 66, by helping to distribute plastic along the tee 110 during injection molding. –

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

B8
1. (Twice Amended) A tee for use at the inlet or outlet of a septic tank, the tee comprising:
an elongated generally cylindrical main body portion defining a tubular opening, the tubular opening being adapted to receive a filter therein;
a cylindrical uppermost hub coaxial with said elongated main body portion and having an inner diameter greater than a diameter of the elongated main body portion; and
an inlet/outlet port in communication with the tubular opening, the inlet/outlet port having an inlet/outlet hub at an open end thereof, said inlet/outlet hub having a diameter sized so as to receive a pipe of a first outer diameter and being adaptable to receive a pipe of a second outer diameter, said diameter of the inlet/outlet hub being greater than the diameter of the elongated main body portion.